REMARKS

Claims 5-14 are pending in the application. In the present amendment, claims 5, 7, 8, 9 and 14 have been amended. Therefore, upon entry of the present amendment, claims 5-14 will be subject to examination.

Claims 9 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 112. It is believed that the present amendments to claims 9 and 14 remove these grounds for rejection.

Claims 5-14 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of patent publication US 2003/0213507 to Martin. It is submitted that neither AAPA nor Martin, alone or in combination, teach a protective screen panel that is supported by the structure of the drill head both when the drilling machine is in operation and not in operation, because AAPA does not disclose a protective screen panel and further because Martin teaches a screen panel that is supported by the neck portion of a vessel to be cleaned while the machine is in operation and that slides over the drill head when the drill head is lifted. See, e.g .Martin at paragraph [0024]. For at least these reasons, the withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is believed that claims 5-14 are further patentable over the combination of AAPA and Martin for the same reasons as claim 5 and for the additional limitations contained therein. For example, neither AAPA nor Martin, alone or in combination, teach coupling the protective screen panel to the structure with plates, or a protective screen panel that is adjustable laterally.

Conclusion

It is believes that all objection and rejections in the application have been addressed and that the present application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is therefore respectfully requested.

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<u>/Franco A. Serafini/</u>
Franco A. Serafini, Registration No. 52,207
Attorney for Applicant
Telephone: (858) 456-2898
Fax: (858) 225-3920
E-Mail: fserafini@themisipc.com

THEMIS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COUNSEL
7660 Fay Ave. Ste H378
La Jolla, CA 92037